

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

-- CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of pending United States Patent Application No. 09/564,357 filed April 24, 2000; which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/131,156 filed April 27, 1999, ~~which are where this provisional application is~~ incorporated herein by reference in their entireties ~~its entirety~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, as follows:

Figure 5 is a sequence alignment showing sequence similarity between DSP-5 and other MAP-kinase phosphatases (SEQ ID NOS: 15-22).